

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6861

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: WORK STOPPAGE BY FEDERAL PRISON GUARDS

1. SOLICITOR-GENERAL COMPONENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA URGED ITS 7,000 FEDERAL PRISON GUARD MEMBERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN UNPRECEDENTED 24 HOUR WALKOUT TODAY (JULY 2) OSTENSIBLY TO MOURN DEATH OF GUARD KILLED JUNE 29 IN MONTREAL (FOURTH WITHIN PAST YEAR) WHO IS BEING BURIED TODAY. EARLY REPORTS INDICATE WORK STOPPAGE WIDELY FOLLOWED. ARMY AND ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ORDERED TO PROVIDE PRISON SECURITY. REAL ISSUE IS REPEATED DEMAND BY PRISON GUARDS, SUPPORTED BY SOME POLICE GROUPS, THAT GOC IMPOSE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST MURDERERS OF POLICE AND PRISON GUARDS UNLESS JURY RECOMMENDS CLEMENCY. DECISION TO STAGE WALKOUT WAS REACHED TWO DAYS AGO WHEN GUARD DELEGATION MET WITH SOLICITOR GENERAL ALLMAND, A STRONG OPPONENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WHO PROMISED TO INCREASE SECURITY MEASURES BUT REJECTED PRISON GUARD DEMAND.

2. COMMENT: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS AUTHORIZED BY FEDERAL LAW BUT CABINET HAS COMMUTED ALL DEATH SENTENCES SINCE 1962. JOHNSON

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